

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, EFIS, PGOV

SUBJ: EC FISHERY MINISTERS MEETING IN BERLIN

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 1147 (NOTAL); (B) BRUSSELS 1566
(NOTAL); (C) BONN 1194; (D) BRUSSELS 1141 (NOTAL)

1. A UK PERMREP OFFICIAL HAS CONFIRMED TO US THAT
AGRICULTURE MINISTER SILKIN WILL NOT RPT NOT ATTEND
SCHEDULED INFORMAL MEETING OF EC FISHERY MINISTERS
JANUARY 27 IN BERLIN, WHICH HAD BEEN INTENDED AS A
SESSION DEVOTED TO REACHING COMPROMISE ON DEADLOCKED
DEBATE CONCERNING COMMUNITY INTERNAL FISHING REGIME, IN
ADVANCE OF FORMAL RESUMPTION OF EC FISHERY COUNCIL ON
JANUARY 30 IN BRUSSELS (REF A). THE BRITISH DECISION
TO BOYCOTT THE BERLIN MEETING FOLLOWED DISAGREEMENT
AT THE JANUARY 23-24 AGRICULTURE COUNCIL OVER DEVALUATION
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OF THE "GREEN POUND" AND INSISTENCE BY THE FRG, BELGIUM,
AND THE NETHERLANDS THAT THEY COULD NOT ACCEPT THE 7.5
PERCENT DEVALUATION REQUESTED BY THE UK WITHOUT FURTHER
REVIEW. THE GERMANS, IN PARTICULAR, INDICATED THAT THEIR
FINAL APPROVAL COULD NOT BE FORTHCOMING BEFORE JANUARY 29.
ACCORDING TO OUR UK PERMREP SOURCE, LAST-MINUTE DIS-
CUSSIONS BETWEEN UK MINISTER OF STATE JUDD AND FRG

MINISTER OF STATE DOHNANYI FAILED TO MOVE THE GERMAN POSITION, PROMPTING HMG TO VETO SILKIN'S ATTENDANCE AT THE BERLIN TALKS. OUR SOURCE INDICATED THAT SILKIN WILL ATTEND THE JANUARY 30 COUNCIL SESSION, HOWEVER.

2. OTHER COUNCIL SECRETARIAT AND PERMREP OFFICIALS EXPECT THAT THE BERLIN MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AS PLANNED, EVEN WITHOUT BRITISH PARTICIPATION, THOUGH THEY CONCEDE THAT DISCUSSIONS WILL PERFORCE BE INCONCLUSIVE. HINTON

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